

Milton Damerel Parish Council Minutes

Of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2024 held in Milton Damerel Parish Hall commencing at 19:45

Present: Councillors Stephen Moyse Chair, Richard Piper Vice- Chair, Teresa Walters, Gareth Piper, Jim Richardson and Edgar Pett. Also present was District Councillor Ken James and the Clerk Lorraine Buttery

1. Apologies were received from: Councillor Peter Bromley , Devon County Councillor James Morrish and District Councillor Kit Hepple

2. **Declarations of Interest**

a) Register of Interest: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.

None were declared.

b) To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature. *None were declared.*

c) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests in items on the agenda and their nature. *None were declared*

3. **Chair's announcements:**

Councillor Moyse welcomed all to the meeting.

3a) No questions were asked of the Chair, but Stephen stated that he had brushed and cleaned the Bus shelter and started to clean the glass on the other shelter after receiving complaints at the open meeting in April.

4. **Public Comments**

No members of the public were present

5. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting and Annual meeting (AGM) held on the 24th April 2024, which had been circulated by email, were unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting, they were duly signed by the Chair Councillor Stephen Moyse.

6. **Reports by Local and District Councillors.**

District Councillor Ken James was welcomed by the Chair Councillor Stephen Moyse.

Ken reported that at present it was hard work being the leader of Torrridge with no party having an overall majority. The Council AGM is on Monday 20th May. There has been a hiccup regarding the Appledore development as one of the developers was discovered to have massive debts and a second contractor had to be found. This has been approved but the start deadline has been moved to 2025-2026. There has been approaches from Universities in other parts of the Country which is good news for the Council. The leveling up fund projects are actually decided by the Government, but recommendations have been made by Torrridge which include housing, the cattle market, education. The process can be very difficult. On the bright side Torrridge had been judged the Best Council in the Country. Councillor James reported that he had been approached by an officer in the planning department complaining that officers names had been published on face book during the complaints regarding the Slurry Pit, this is against regulations, and could he please find out who the administrators were at the time and who wrote and published the articles. Although it is suspected who was the administrator and author of the articles it was felt prudent to double check before naming names. Councillor Moyse will report back to the Clerk who will then forward the information on to Councillor James.

Councillor Piper asked what is the criteria for triggering an election? Councillor James said it was 10 residents, the Councillors were unanimous in their disagreement to this legislation, as it is hardly a good representation of the residents. Councillor Moyse asked if there was a chance that the legislation could be changed, maybe to a percentage of the electoral roll? Ken said he would ask the questions

Councillor Richardson reported that he had had questions asked as to why there was such a large percentage increase in the Council Tax, the reply was that this was purely because of the invoice expected for the election.

Councillor James went on to say that the Household support fund was again available for anyone in need.

Councillor Hepple had sent a message by email and stated that he was unable to attend the meeting but if he could be of any assistance to the Parish Council please do not hesitate to contact him.

Devon County Councillor James Morrish also sent a message of apology and offered his assistance if it was required. The Chair Councillor Stephen Moyse thanked Ken for his attendance.

Signed.....

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7. **Matters Arising**

- 1) The sign as yet has not been replaced, the Clerk will remind highways again.
- 2) State of roads, no improvement on many of roads in the Parish and some are getting increasingly worse, residents should be encouraged to report potholes and poor surfaces directly to Highways, the more people that complain the better.
- 3) Fly tipping in the lay-by near Chapmans green, the rubbish has now been removed,

8. **Planning Applications**

None received

9. **Planning decisions**

1)1/0267/2024/FUL

Proposal: Part retrospective siting of three temporary static caravans for use as agricultural workers accommodation

Location: Worden Farm, Milton Damerel, HOLSWORTHY, Devon

The above application was refused permission

The Chair wondered why it was refused and asked Councillor James if he knew? Ken replied no but he would try to find out.

Planning Appeals

None were received

10. **Financial Matters**

a) The following cheque was unanimously approved and three Councillors duly signed :

i) Clerk's salary £311.36 (Increase of £5.50 a week as approved in Aprils meeting)

b) financial report to date, the bank balance of £7018.17 was supported by the current bank statement and the bank reconciliation. Ring fenced sums consist of SbiT £103.02, P3 £174.65, TDC Grant S £280.00 and DAAT grant £470, election costs £2000, the remaining balance £3990.50 being Parish Council general funds.

c) New Bank account, at present still waiting for the cheque book as soon as it arrives and all paperwork in order, the Clerk will close the HSBC account and transfer funds to Natwest,

11. **Correspondence as below and as available at the time of the meeting**

All correspondence received by email have been forwarded to Councillors, the email from Cellnet regarding the increase in height of the Mast at Holsworthy Beacon was discussed. It is not a planning application just notification, comments can be sent to Cellnet but the mast will be increased, irrespective of complaints.

12. **Matters brought forward with the permission of the Chairman**

1) Councillor Piper reported that the footpath by Northtown diversion needs attention, the sleepers going over the ditch are rotten, It has also been noted that cameras situated on the farm building point towards the footpath, Gareth wondered if this was acceptable. The clerk will enquire.

2) Councillor Richardson reported the the War Memorial figure has a lot of bird mess on it, Councillor Moyse yes this had been seen and he will get it cleaned, he will also look to get something to discourage birds fro alighting on it.

3) The person who had cut the verges last year has indicated that he will not be able to do so this year, can the Councillors please give it some though as to who might be available this year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed.....

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